



SENATE JUDICIARY
AMEND NO. 4
DATE 2/14/11
SEN NO. SB262

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TO: Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Joy Bruck, State President AARP Montana

Re: Support to SB 262

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for the record I am Joy Bruck, State President of AARP Montana, a non-partisan organization with over 155,000 members 50+ in Montana. We believe that SB 262 will help protect our older citizens from abuse, neglect or exploitation and will provide better compensation if this does occur.

The National Center on Elder Abuse reports that one in ten older citizens will be abused, but probably only one in five will report the problem. Strengthening the laws may give them more incentive to report the abuse. These are our parents, our siblings, our friends who may need protection in their homes, in assisted living homes or in nursing homes. Protecting older persons and persons with developmental disabilities from harm should be a priority. SB 262 could be the answer.

Protecting Montanans from abuse, neglect and exploitation is very important. SB 262 should provide the support needed to prosecute individuals who have willingly harmed another and should help to make us feel safer. We urge your support of SB 262.